

## Milt Stark



Milt Stark's contributions to the sport goes well beyond his playing career. The catcher was a member of the 1964 Downey Impalas team that rose through the loser's bracket to win the International Softball Congress title, scoring the run in the win that led to the title game. He would play in 10 more ISC World tournaments, nine of them as the catcher of the Long Beach Nitehawks, where his battery mates included fellow Long Beach Baseball/Softball Hall of Famers Don Sarno and Bob Todd. He was named to the All-World teams in 1966 (hitting .500 and leading the tourney in RBI) and 1968, and elected into the ISC Hall of Fame in 1981.

As he pursued his passion for his sport on the field, Milt moved quietly into responsible organizational responsibilities within the ISC, which culminated with his appointment as Executive Director in 1982, a post he held for 20 years. He spent that time reviving fast-pitch softball throughout the United States, reaching out to leagues in Canada and bringing them into the ISC World Tournament. Subsequently, he incorporated programs in New Zealand, Guatemala and South American countries into the ISC and brought them into its annual competitions.

He designed, wrote and edited the World Tournament Guide, the ISC Official Annual Publication. As a sportswriter, Milt was a featured correspondent for the Whittier Daily News for 10 years, wrote for various softball publications and edited Bob Otto's *We Play It Fast* (2011). In Bob Otto's view, Milt was an excellent defensive catcher, one with a rifle arm who knew his pitchers' strengths and capitalized on hitters' weaknesses...the mark of a great catcher. Milt is a member of the City of Long Beach Baseball/Softball Hall of Fame (2007).